991 waiving about Rs. 1200 crores dues from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for according such preferential treatment to the State; and

(c) what similar action is contemplated in the cases of States in the North Eastern Region including Assam all of which have serious problems of resource crunch and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Special status for Orissa

600. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of Orissa has demanded special status for Orissa;

(b) whether Chief Minister has also demanded to waive pending Central loans till the 31st March, 2001; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, Chief Minister of Orissa had requested for waiver of debt servicing* liability amounting to Rs. 503 crore pertaining to the period November, 1999 to March, 2000. Apart from this, the State Government of Orissa has also requested for deferment of debt servicing liability of the State for six months from March, 2001.

(c)As regards waiver/rescheduling of debt, the Government of India is guided by the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission which was mandated to review the debt position of the State, the repayment liability of the State has been captured in its recommendation on devaluation from Centre to States and any selective reopening would not be consistent with EFC scheme.